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The Contagion of Militarism — the Case of Chile and Argentina.

One of the worst aspects of militarism is its contagiousness. It spreads like an evil disease. One nation cannot be affected by it without its neighbor becoming infected. If one or two nations desire to escape it they find it, or think they find it, practically impossible to do so without the coöperation of their neighbors. The situation is rendered all the worse when, as is now the case, all the nations are near neighbors to one another.

The militarism of the time is, therefore, practically universal—or rapidly tending to become universal. Even the small nations seem incapable of keeping out of it, though they thereby probably increase the danger of their destruction. Switzerland, though neutralized, and maintaining no standing army, keeps up a system of citizen soldiery and universal military training which costs her even more per capita than is spent by the great powers on their vast standing armies. The Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, though not much is generally said about their armaments, are quite as active in their preparations for defense as Switzerland. They are always the victims of fear of their big armed neighbors. Our own country, though geo-

graphically situated so as to be absolutely impregnable, has yielded to the pressure of European militarism and is now building more war vessels than any other power.

These reflections have been called forth by certain reports coming to us for the last six or eight weeks from South America. According to these reports Chile and Argentina intend, as soon as the five years' treaty between them expires, again to commence increasing their navies. If the reports are correct, this contemplated action is most regrettable. What these two progressive South American nations did in settling their long-standing boundary-dispute by arbitration and in agreeing to make a substantial reduction in their armaments for a period of five years, was an event of the first importance, unique in the history of nations. It has been universally lauded, and cited as an example to be followed by the other nations. It has had extraordinary influence in promoting arbitration and peace sentiment throughout the civilized world. It has advanced the honor of the two nations to an unprecedented height, and also materially promoted their industrial and commercial prosperity.

There is not the least doubt, again, that their security has been as great, or even greater than it was before they reduced their armaments. All the nations have appreciated their action and respected them for it. What they ought, therefore, to do, is to plan to renew their treaties of arbitration and of limitation of armaments when they expire a year and more hence. Their experiment has been altogether successful, and they ought not under any considerations to go back to "the weak and beggarly elements" from which they delivered themselves. The world has a right to expect something better of them. The renewal of their rivalry in armaments will inevitably become an intense and bitter one, the evil effects of which on their welfare can be only vaguely foreseen.

We cannot yet believe that the men at the head of affairs in the two countries, the same men we think that brought to a successful issue the peace negotiations of four years ago, will willingly allow such a disaster to befall their countries. We are well aware of the distrust toward our own country which has sprung up in South American countries, and of an uneasy feeling, especially among Brazilians, towards Germany. But there is no real ground in either case to justify a return to the policy of

increase of armaments. So far as her relations to Bolivia are concerned, Chile, if she has had any fears of trouble from that direction, had better a thousand times give back the territory which she took from her northern neighbor in war, or at any rate fulfill her pledges made at the time about it, than to allow herself to be plunged again into the exhausting expenditures for war preparations which she was making before her agreement with Argentina.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the Pan-American Congress which meets this month at Rio Janeiro will throw its weight solidly against further increase of armaments in South America, indeed in all American countries. There is no reason why all the republics of that continent should not join in a general agreement for permanent limitation of both military and naval expenditures. It would be of untold value to them, and to the world. Brazil, the largest of them, which is, as reported, also to inaugurate a policy of naval expansion, could doubtless be persuaded to join her sister republics in a treaty of limitation. If Chile and Argentina would only make public their intention of renewing their splendid treaties when they expire, and send a cordial invitation to their immediate neighbors — Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru and Bolivia — to join them, that whole group of South American countries, at least, might easily be brought into a pacific federation which would add greatly to the influence of what Chile and the Argentine Republic have already done, and stimulate by their example the whole world to follow them.

Perhaps this is too much to expect of them in the present state of the world, in which fear and suspicion and unscrupulous territorial and commercial ambition play still an all too tragic part, and prevent nations desiring to do so from reaching at once the high level for which they are themselves ready. If this be true, and if it be further true that only as the whole family of nations moves together can any one or any group of them make the best and fittest advancement in civilization, it becomes all the more incumbent upon the great world conference which is soon to meet at The Hague to make it impossible for two such nations as Chile and Argentina to be degraded again from the high position which they have heroically attained. Everything singles out the subject of arrest and reduction of armaments as, with only one possible exception, that of a periodic Congress of the Nations, the question of questions with which the second Hague Conference will have to deal.

Count Apponyi, one of the most eminent and influential members of the Interparliamentary Union, has been made Minister of Public Instruction in Hungary. In response to a deputation of the Hungarian Peace Society, the new Minister has promised to recommend to the school authorities the introduction of a Peace Day into the schools of Hungary.

The Twelfth Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

We are publishing in this number of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* some of the more noteworthy of the addresses delivered at the recent Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration. It must not be assumed that because we publish them and heartily approve of their main contentions we agree with every opinion expressed in them. It will be seen from these speeches and from the platform, which we also publish, that the Conference this year was as remarkable for the advanced ground which it took as it was for its numbers and its enthusiasm.

More than three hundred persons were in attendance, among whom was an unusually large number of Congressmen, national and state officials, jurists, diplomats, mayors, and others prominent in public life, not to mention the distinguished clergymen, educators and others from various fields. Out of the one hundred and more business organizations of the great cities of the country which have been brought by the Conference to actively interest themselves in the arbitration movement, fifty responded to Mr. Smiley's invitation and sent special representatives. This was one of the marked features of the Conference, whose *personnel* was on the whole, if possible, more impressive than any that we have ever before seen at Mohonk.

More than half of the States of the Union were represented; namely, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Hawaii. A distinguished professor from the University of Tokyo, Japan, who is studying in this country, was also present. The Conference, therefore, though it continues to be the special personal enterprise of Mr. Smiley, whose wisdom, foresight and devotion — shall we not say, his inspiration? — in creating it become all the more wonderful as the years go by, has become truly national in character and exercises a powerful influence throughout the whole land, and even throughout the world.

Some of the speaking this year was of an unusually high order; in fact, so far as we remember, it has never been surpassed by that at any of the previous Mohonk meetings. Most of it was also practical and constructive, looking to the future and pleading for the taking of the two or three great steps still necessary to bring the nations into a really civilized world-community. There was the usual "reactionary" talk on the part of a few, most of them novices in the Mohonk deliberations, who seemed alarmed lest the Conference should go